

**NoName Group Conference Call
Wednesday, December 29, 1999
Draft Meeting Notes**

Attendees:

Greg Gartrell (Ag/Urban)	Roger Guinee (USFWS)	Gary Stern (NMFS)
Steve Macaulay (DWR)	Lowell Ploss (USBR)	Steve Hirsch (USBR)
Dave Briggs (CCWD)	Paul Fujitani (USBR)	Dave Schuster (Ag/Urban)
Jim Snow (WWD)	Jim White (DFG)	John Burke (USBR)
Art Hinojosa (MWD)	Mark Pierce (USFWS)	Marty Kjelson (USFWS)
Pete Rhoads (MWD)	Spreck Rosekrans (EDF)	Tom Boardman (SLDMWA)
Larry Gage (DWR)	Victor Pacheco (DWR)	Rick Sitts (MWD)
Sheila Greene (DWR)	Paul Forestberg (DFG)	

The NoName Group held a conference call on December 29 to review recent operations and to develop recommendations for future operations.

The Delta Cross Channel gates remain open. Jersey Point EC is ranging between 0.4 and 0.5 currently. The Dec. 29 morning titration at Contra Costa Canal Pumping Plant No. 1 was reported by CCWD to be 215 mg/L (currently, morning and afternoon titrations are used to compute a daily average). Chloride levels are expected to drop in Rock Slough and Pumping Plant No. 1 because of the water quality improvement in Old River.

A double trigger has effectively been developed for closure of the Delta Cross Channel gates in the immediate future. If fish conditions warrant closure of the gates per the fish triggers that were developed and distributed by the USFWS and if water quality conditions permit, then the gates will be closed. Water quality triggers for the closure (and re-opening) of the gates were developed in a recent draft document by DWR titled "Delta Cross Channel Gate Operational Considerations." Salinity levels are used along with other factors such as tides and Delta outflow to form a recommendation for gate operations. Currently the salinity at over half of the locations specified in this document are below the target range.

There was no change in the projected export operations plan. The SWP increased exports at Bank PP to 6,680 cfs on Dec. 29. The USBR also increased exports to 4,200 cfs on Dec. 29. SWP exports are planned to increase to 7,000 cfs on Friday to take advantage of the high San Joaquin flows. Banks exports will be 6,680 cfs for Jan. 1 and Jan 2. On Monday, Jan. 3 SWP exports may increase again to 7,000 cfs depending on the Vernalis flow. After mid-day Friday, there will be no new fish monitoring information to react to until Monday morning. Depending on the fishery conditions that are known on Dec. 31, there may or may not be a contingency plan for operators and biologists to communicate over the weekend.

The Eight River Index is expected to yield less than 800 TAF for December 1999.

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On Dec. 29, the State Board certified the Final EIR and adopted the Water Rights Decision for the initial phases of the current Bay-Delta water rights proceeding. Dave Schuster reported that the SWRCB adopted the "up to 45" days of cross channel gate closure with this decision. The language regarding the number of required days of gate closure specified in the FEIR and new Water Rights Decision are now consistent with the Accord and Order 95-6. Language requiring consultation with the CALFED Ops Group was also reinstated.

Fish monitoring continues to indicate no significant migration of spring-run through the Delta. The fish triggers developed for closure of the cross channel gates have not been reached. Monitoring will continue over the holiday weekend. Daily Chipps Island trawls are planned, beach seine and kodiak trawls will be conducted before the weekend and on Jan. 3. Rotary screw traps at Knight's Landing will be operated continuously through the weekend. The traps will be checked and results reported on Dec. 31. Traps will be checked again on Jan. 2 and results reported on Jan. 3, 2000.

Gary Stern reported that NMFS is including water quality considerations in the spring-run biological opinion.

NoName Group conference calls have been scheduled for **Friday, Dec. 31** at 1:30 pm (916/ 657-4111) and **Jan 3.** at 10:30 am (916/ 657-4111). These calls will be conducted in conjunction with the DAT. Call details will be distributed.

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